

REMARKS

The title and specification have been amended (in the substitute specification noted above) to make editorial changes therein, and the form of the claims has been amended, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by REED et al. 6,088,717. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2-4 and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 were rejected as unpatentable over REED et al. in view of SOEJIMA et al. 5,713,027. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The system of amended claim 1 includes, among other features, the provision that when an entity is absent, the history information is deleted from the history storage device and stored in the directory purging entry storage device. The Official Action relies on REED et al. for the suggestion to include this feature. However, REED et al. do not disclose this and amended claim 1 avoids the rejections under §102 and §103.

The Official Action points to columns 39-40 and 42 in support of the rejection. This part of REED et al. discloses that when an element 143 (defined as a communication object at column 18, beginning at line 31) for which a preference exists is

absent from an object update, the consumer may wish to be notified or the element preference deleted (column 40, lines 9-14). By contrast, amended claim 1 refers to an entity that is absent (no longer present), where the history for the entity that is no longer present is deleted and re-stored. REED et al. discuss an element that is missing from an update (the element itself is not "absent") and notes that an element preference (not the entity itself) may be deleted when the update does not refer to the entity. REED et al. make no provision for entities that are absent and do not disclose or suggest deleting and re-storing a history for the absent entity.

REED et al. discuss archiving at column 40, lines 35-36, but do not mention archiving for "absent" entities. Further, REED et al. make no provision for deleting and re-storing a history for an entity.

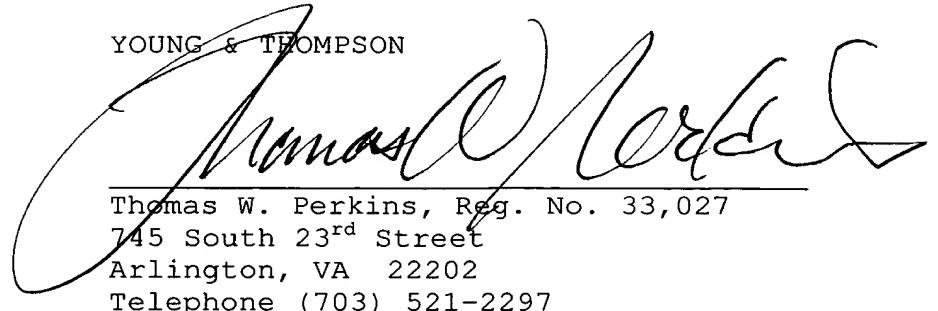
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lk

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification